

Appl. No. : 09/830,820
Filed : April 27, 2001

REMARKS

Claims 10-14, 22-26, and 32-36 remain pending in the present application, Claims 21 and 31 having been canceled, and Claims 22 and 32 having been amended.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 10-14.

In response to the Office Action mailed September 12, 2003, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments.

Claims Indicated As Allowable Have Been Rewritten

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of the allowability of the subject matter of Claims 22-26 and 32-36. The Examiner objected to Claims 22-26 and 32-36 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With this Amendment, Claims 22-26 and 32-36 have been rewritten as such, as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, Claims 22-26 and 32-36 are in condition for allowance.

The Applied Combination of Early et al./Moroto et al. Does Not Make Obvious The Hybrid Powered Vehicle Recited By Claims 21 and 32

Claims 21 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,961,151 issued to Early et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,892,346 issued to Moroto et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. However, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have canceled Claims 31 and 32. Thus, the present rejection is now moot. Applicants expressly reserve the right to further prosecute Claims 21 and 31 through continuation practice.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any

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undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants' attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

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